

AYSGARTH,

YORKSHIRE.

TO THE AYSGARTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to hand you my Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the District for the year ending December 31, 1913.

The health of the District has been good, and with the exception of Enteric Fever there have been very few cases of notifiable disease. Four cases of Enteric Fever occurred in the Hawes district, and four in Askrigg and neighbourhood.

There was also one case of Scarlet Fever in West Burton, which was successfully isolated, and no cases of diphtheria.

We may congratulate ourselves on this, considering the number of visitors who come here from towns.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply is on the whole very good and the majority of houses have water laid on. The question of the Askrigg Water Supply is still under discussion and it is to be hoped that this, the most urgent need in the district, will be shortly dealt with. In the case of Nappa Scar, a good and efficient Water Supply has been provided during the past year.

DRAINAGE.

The Sewage Schemes are efficient in all the villages, with the exception of West Burton. It is here that the only pollution of streams, beyond filtered effluent, occurs.

An efficient scheme is in progress and should be completed before the end of the present year. There are many earth closets in the district, the contents of which are put on the land.

The Sanitary Inspection of the District is done by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

Several cases of nuisance have been dealt with but only one statutory notice had to be served. The nuisance in question has now been remedied.

There has been one case of overcrowding during the year.

There are thirteen Elementary Schools in the district. These are in a good sanitary condition with regard to lighting, ventilation and sanitary accommodation.

There is only one Lodging House in the district. This is at Hawes and is satisfactory.

There is a large quantity of milk exported from the District. There are 73 registered purveyors of milk, as compared with 71 last year. These occupy 179 cowsheds. The latter have been inspected at least twice during the year and the large majority are satisfactory as regards lighting, ventilation and cleanliness. All of these are clean but are not of a modern character.

As the staple industry of the district is dairy farming and sheep farming, the milk supply is very good.

The Slaughter Houses are, without exception, clean and in good sanitary condition.

There are thirty-four registered work-places in the district. Each of these has been inspected and all were found to be satisfactory. There is no overcrowding.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

The water supplies and sewage schemes are inspected from time to time by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and defects are reported and dealt with as occasion arises.

There have been three cases of Enteric Fever dealt with in the Isolation Hospital during the year. This, undoubtedly, lessened the spread of the outbreak, and the cost of maintenance was well spent money, as an epidemic may be a very serious matter in this district, owing to the milk-selling industry, and the great loss which an epidemic may entail. Water is being laid on to the Isolation Hospital,—this will greatly add to its convenience and efficiency.

HOUSING AND TOWN-PLANNING ACT.

House-to-house inspection has been commenced in the district. At the suggestion of the Council, a start was made in Gayle. Twenty-six houses have been inspected; seven of these were found to be satisfactory, nineteen had various defects, most of them slight. Notices have been served to the landlords to remedy these within a reasonable time. The housing accommodation is adequate to the needs of the district; there is no increase in the population, as would be caused were a new industry to arise.

The average number of persons per house is 4·13.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

From the enclosed tables it will be seen that there was the same number of births, 80, as last year, making the birth rate 18·77 per 1000.

There is an increase in the death rate: 16·19 as compared with 15·23 per 1000 of last year. As will be seen from the tables, nearly half of these were deaths of persons of 65 and upwards. The infant mortality is small, as last year, being only 6 per 1000.

There were 19 cases of notifiable disease; of these 9 were cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. Of the 69 deaths in the district, 3 were from violence.

There were eight deaths from organic heart disease. This was the largest number of deaths from any one cause.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DEAN DUNBAR.

